

Message Text

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21

ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /070 W

----- 068208

R 281447Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9585

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 1123

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: PRESS INTEREST IN SINAI FIELD MISSION

1. EMBASSY IS RECEIVING GROWING VOLUME OF PRESS QUERIES
(MAINLY EGYPTIAN, BUT ALSO AMERICAN) ABOUT SINAI FIELD
MISSION. UNDERLYING SOME OF JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS IS
PERCEPTION THAT VIRTUALLY ALL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO SFM
ARE BEING CONDUCTED THROUGH ISRAEL. WE HAVE RESPONDED TO
QUERIES BY STATING THAT EMBASSY NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH
SFM AND ONLY SSM AND SFM DIRECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE SOURCES
FOR INFORMATION ON PROGRESS OF SFM.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ABSENCE OF SFM ACTIVITY
IN EGYPT AND PAUCITY OF NEWS AVAILABLE HERE (DEPT PRESS RELEASE
OF JANUARY 16 IS ONLY RELEASE USIS HAS DISTRIBUTED) COULD
LEAD TO INACCURATE ACCOUNTS FROM SECONDARY SOURCE AND EVEN
SOME ADVERSE COMMENT ABOUT LACK OF "SYMMETRY" AT THIS STAGE.

3. IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLY ADVERSE REPORTING, WE
RECOMMEND THAT SFM DIRECTOR THORNE HOLD A
PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT.
BEST DATE WOULD BE FEBRUARY 5 OR 7 (AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS
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HAVE PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 6). IN

ORDER TO AVOID RECRIMINATIONS, WE WOULD PREFER TO
ISSUE INVITATIONS TO ALL MAJOR PAPERS RATHER THEN INVITE
A SELECTED FEW.

4. IF THORNE AGREEABLE, WE WOULD WANT TO INFORM GOE
TO ENSURE IT HAS NO OBJECTION.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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